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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/694,153	10/23/2000	Pradeep Bahl	205727	9975

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EXAMINER

NAJJAR, SALEH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2157

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/694,153

Applicant(s)

BAHL, PRADEEP

Examiner

Saleh Najjar

Art Unit

2157

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 25-28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 11, 13-21, 23 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-10, 12 and 22 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 October 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/June 2, 2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

1. This action is responsive to the application filed October 23, 2000. Claims 1-28 are pending examination. Claims 1-28 represent method and system for assigning and reclaiming static addresses through DHCP.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3, 11, 13-21, and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,496,511.

Wang teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a method and system for assigning fixed IP addresses to network clients (see abstract).

As to claim 1, Wang teaches a method of reclaiming static IP addresses from a client machine connected to a network utilizing a dynamic host configuration protocol (DHCP) server, comprising the steps of:

sending a DHCP release address command to the client machine having the static IP address to be reclaimed (see figs. 2-7; col. 9, lines 23-35, Wang discloses that a release command is transmitted to reclaim the fixed address from a disconnected client) ; and

setting a state of the static IP address to be reclaimed to FREE (see col. 13, Wang discloses that a busy flag is disabled when the address is free).

Wang does not explicitly teach the limitation of a DHCP RECLAIM command. Wang does teach that a release command is sent to reclaim the fixed address (see col. 9-10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wang by specifying the DHCP RECLAIM command in place of the

release address command since the same functionality of reclaiming the fixed address is achieved.

As to claim 2, Wang teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the step of setting a state of the static IP address to be reclaimed to FREE is dependent on a step of receiving an acknowledgment of the DHCP RECLAIM command from the client machine (see col. 13).

As to claim 3, Wang teaches the method of claim 2, wherein the step of receiving an acknowledgment comprises the step of receiving a positive acknowledgment (ACK) and the step of receiving a negative acknowledgment (NACK) (see col. 13).

As to claim 11, Wang teaches a computer-readable media having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1 (see col. 9-13).

As to claim 13, Wang teaches a method of relinquishing a static IP address, comprising the steps of:

receiving a DHCP release command; and entering the DHCP initialization (INIT) state to obtain a new IP address (see col. 9-13, Wang discloses that a an initiate phase is initiated to obtain a new IP address).

Wan g does not explicitly teach the limitation of a DHCP RECLAIM command. Wang does teach that a release command is sent to reclaim the fixed address (see col. 9-10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Wang by specifying the DHCP RECLAIM command in place of the release address command since the same functionality of reclaiming the fixed address is achieved.

As to claim 14, Wang teaches the method of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

sending an acknowledgment (ACK) of the DHCP release command (se col. 9-13).

As to claim 15, Wang teaches the method of claim 14:

wherein the DHCP realease command relates to a particular IP address; further comprising the step of determining if the particular IP address is valid; and wherein the

step of entering the DHCP INIT state is dependent on the IP address being valid; else further comprising the step of sending a negative acknowledgment (NACK) (see col. 9-13).

As to claim 16, Wang teaches the method of claim 13, further comprising the steps of:

marking the IP address for removal; sending an acknowledgment (ACK); and thereafter removing the marking of the IP address for removal (see col. 9-13, Wang discloses that the busy flag is disabled and upon checking that the flag is disabled the address is returned to the pool of fixed addresses.

As to claim 17, Wang teaches the method of claim 16, further comprising the steps, performed upon becoming available on a network, of:

determining if a current IP address is marked for removal; and thereafter entering a DHCP INIT state if the current IP address is marked for removal; and entering a DHCP INIT REBOOT state if the current IP address is not marked for removal (see col. 9-13).

As to claims 18-20, Wang teaches the computer-readable media having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 13 and 18, having further computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 14, and having further computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 16 (see col. 9-13).

As to claim 21, Wang teaches method of connecting to a network to achieve an IP address through 20 DHCP, comprising the steps of:

determining whether a current IP address exists; determining whether the current IP address is marked for removal; entering a DHCP INIT state when there is no current IP address (see col. 10);

entering a DHCP INIT state when the current IP address is marked for removal; and entering a DHCP INIT REBOOT state when the current IP address is not marked for removal (see col. 9-13).

As to claims 23-24, Wang teaches the computer-readable media having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 21, having

further computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 22 (see col. 9-13).

4. Claims 4-10, 12, and 22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. Claims 25-28 are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest singly or in combination the claimed limitations of setting an IP address in the deprecated state when an acknowledgement response to the DHCP RECLAIM command from the client is not received.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Saleh Najjar whose telephone number is (703) 308-7613. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30 to 3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, *Ario Etienne*, can be reached on (703) 308-7562.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600. The central official fax number for the group is (703) 872-9306.



Saleh Najjar

Primary Examiner / Art Unit 2157